

its ever-evolving relationship with the United States. While U.S.-Azerbaijani relations date back to Azerbaijan's independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, our relations were elevated to the level of strategic partnership after September 11, 2001. Given the myriad of global challenges facing the United States, Azerbaijan, which is geostrategically located, has become an invaluable ally of America and a partner in the war against terrorism.

The US-Azerbaijani relationship is mutually beneficial and multifaceted, particularly as it relates to defense and security cooperation. Azerbaijan was the first Muslim majority nation to send troops to Iraq, and Azerbaijani soldiers currently serve shoulder-to-shoulder with American forces in Kosovo and Afghanistan. Azerbaijan is also working with the U.S. multilaterally, within the framework of the Organization for Democracy and Development—GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova) to fight against terrorism, prevent trans-national and cross-border crimes, and to secure borders, thus contributing to international counter-terrorism and non-proliferation efforts.

One of Azerbaijan's main foreign policy priorities, which I fully support, is its integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic political, security and economic institutions, a journey that began with the signing of the NATO's Partnership for Peace Framework document in 1994. Now Azerbaijan is completing the implementation process of NATO's Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) and actively participates in Partnership Action Plan against Terrorism (PAP-T). The country enjoys full membership in OSCE and Council of Europe. Azerbaijan also closely cooperates with the European Union (EU) and is looking to successfully move forward on the EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan and its New Neighborhood initiatives.

Azerbaijan is aggressively moving to diversify its economy to achieve sustainable growth and meet the social and development needs of its population. A key partner in developing and transporting Caspian Sea resources to the West, Azerbaijan encourages western and especially American investments and involvement in the region.

Since 1991, Azerbaijan has taken steps to change its legal and legislative structure to foster a democratic society based on rule of law, respect for political and civil rights. While Azerbaijan has made progress, I stand with the Bush administration in urging President Ilham Aliyev's government to take additional steps to expand political pluralism, strengthen democratic institutions and continue to reform its electoral system. As a friend of Azerbaijan, I believe that further democratic progress would only serve to strengthen this partnership and the ties that have been forged over the past 15 years.

Once again, I want to congratulate the people and government of Azerbaijan on this historic milestone and look forward to working with President Aliyev and my counterparts in Baku to strengthen the relationship between our two nations.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support House Resolution 745. This resolution will help to increase awareness about a horrible disease: pancreatic cancer.

Few Americans may understand that pancreatic cancer is a horrific killer. This year alone, over 33,000 people will be diagnosed with this disease. Because there are no early detection tools for this cancer, 99 percent of those diagnosed will lose their lives.

Many Americans are not aware that pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality rate of all cancers; most patients only survive three to six months after diagnosis. This is why it is a moral imperative for Congress to work to increase awareness of this deadly cancer.

Currently, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (known as "PanCAN") is the only national advocacy organization available for pancreatic cancer patients and their families and friends. I became aware of PanCAN through a constituent of mine, Bob Hammen, who lost his wife to this terrible disease. PanCAN provides patient support and professional education about this disease, while coordinating advocacy programs to focus national attention on finding a cure for pancreatic cancer.

PanCAN regards each November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. With the passage of H. Res. 745, Congress will be supporting PanCAN's efforts to raise awareness about pancreatic cancer so that scientific advancements can lead to some early detection programs and effective treatments.

Mr. Speaker, because all of our fellow citizens have family, friends and neighbors who are regrettably vulnerable to this dreaded disease, I urge support from my distinguished colleagues for this resolution here today.

ESTER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman McKEON and Ranking Member MILLER for the opportunity to speak on this important piece of legislation. I also want to thank my colleague, Congresswoman HEATHER WILSON, for her leadership on this important issue.

This bill amends the Native American Programs Act to allow the Administration for Native Americans under the Dept. of Health and Human Services to award grants to strengthen Native American language immersion programs.

This measure is vital to preserving the diminishing Native languages in tribes across the nation, including many in my district. As an original cosponsor on this measure, I am

thankful for the bipartisan effort to preserve the languages of those people who hold the original history of our country.

In my own district, the Navajo people have a very successful language immersion program. In 2001, the Navajo Language Immersion School at the Window Rock Unified School District was established by Dr. Deborah Dennison. At the first grade level, students are instructed in the Navajo Language 90% of the time, and the remaining 10% of their lessons are in English. With each year, these Navajo students are immersed in English more and more until there is an equal balance of language instruction.

The students in this successful program cover academic content areas in both Navajo and English and the results have been astounding. These students perform better on the standardized tests than students in "regular" classrooms. Moreover, since it was established, the Navajo Language Immersion School has consistently met No Child Left Behind's designation of "Annual Yearly Progress" and they have also met "Arizona Learns" standards. I hope this kind of excellence in learning and education can be duplicated throughout Indian Country.

While some may worry that this program would decrease the importance of the English language in the United States, we must remember the contributions that Native Americans who speak their Native language have made to our country. During World Wars I and II, Native American languages, including the Navajo language, played a vital role in protecting our nation. Navajo people and other Native Americans were employed as "Code Talkers" during the wars, and implemented a code that our enemies could not break. Thus it was through their language that we overcame our enemies.

U.S. English, an organization dedicated to promoting English as the official language of the United States, has stated that, "... official English legislation proposed by U.S. ENGLISH does not prevent the use of Native American languages ... In education, U.S. ENGLISH supports the right of tribal governments and autonomous Native American communities to make their native languages the primary language of instruction in their schools."

Therefore, it is paramount that we pass this legislation. As it helps us protect not only an essential part of Native American history but also helps us safeguard a larger part of United States character and culture for future generations to learn their Native language.

A wise friend once shared with me that "To take away a people's language is to begin to conquer them." Let us join together to support and preserve the first American's Native languages.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BRUCE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of this House the end of an era in the Kentucky General Assembly. In January, 2007, the longest serving member of the Kentucky General Assembly, Representative

James Bruce will retire after having 42 years in the Kentucky House of Representatives.

I have known Representative Bruce for most of my life, and he taught me the ropes of government and politics early on when I served with him for one term in the Kentucky House from 1974–1975. Upon arriving in Frankfort, I learned quickly that Representative Bruce was one of the most effective legislators in Kentucky. He had the respect and admiration of his colleagues both Democrat and Republican, and when he told you something you could count on it. Many Governors have relied on Representative Bruce to get their agendas through the legislature.

Back home in the 9th District, he was legendary as someone who seldom if ever had an opponent during an election year, and who was faithful in delivering to his district. Much of the progress in agriculture, infrastructure, and economic development in Representative Bruce's district is in large part attributable to his skill, seniority, and effectiveness in Frankfort. I am confident that if you asked Representative Bruce about his success he would attribute it to his lovely wife Janie who has been at his side for nearly every trip between Hopkinsville and Frankfort and whom many have said that with Jim and Janie we had two for one.

Mr. Speaker, 2007 will mark the end of an era in the Kentucky General Assembly and the 9th House District will miss the presence of Representative James E. Bruce. He leaves large shoes behind to fill.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Redlands on the centennial of its founding. From its first graduating class of three students to the present-day student body of 4,100, this school has developed a reputation as a top-quality small university.

At the turn of the last century, Redlands and the surrounding communities were home to the booming navel orange industry. The lure of agricultural wealth and the beautiful climate of the San Bernardino Valley attracted hundreds of sophisticated families from the East Coast and Midwest. Many of these "colonists" brought a tradition of fostering civic good works to their new home, and by the early 1900s they were seeking a new college to serve the community.

City residents subscribed more than \$50,000 and convinced the American Baptists to locate a new university in Redlands rather than Los Angeles. Chartered in 1907, the university admitted its first students in 1909 and graduated its first class—of three students—in 1910. It now boasts more than 45,000 alumni from around the world. More than 35 percent of its students are from historically under-represented groups.

The University of Redlands today has more than 200 professors teaching in 46 majors and programs, and an additional 200 adjunct fac-

ulty providing expertise to its School of Business and School of Education. Graduate programs include music, communicative disorders and geographic information systems, and a Doctorate of Leadership for Educational Justice. The university has been ranked among the top liberal-arts colleges in the West in a number of surveys.

I am proud to say that the relationship between the university and the community remains strong. The university was one of the first educational institutions in the country to require community service as a condition of graduation. Today, over 80,000 community service hours are provided annually by students to local, regional, national and international agencies and organizations. The innovative School of Education has prepared thousands of new teachers to serve our youth.

Mr. Speaker, the University of Redlands will soon begin a year-long celebration of its centennial, which will be highlighted by the entry of a university float in the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade, and will continue with a series of events commemorating 100 years of excellence and community involvement. Please join me in congratulating the trustees, faculty, staff and students on their achievement, and wish them well in their next 100 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AUDIT ACT OF 2006

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006.

Representative ZOE LOFGREN (D-CA) has joined me in introducing this important measure. I am also pleased to report that a companion bill will be introduced in the Senate by DANIEL K. AKAKA (D-IL), FRANK LAUTENBERG (D-NJ).

This bill, the Intelligence Community Audit Act of 2006, reaffirms the authority of the Comptroller General of the United States and head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct for Congress audits and evaluations of the intelligence community—including audits and evaluations pertaining to financial transactions, programs, and information sharing and other activities. It also prescribes the security procedures that GAO must follow in conducting audits for congressional intelligence oversight committees of intelligence sources and methods, or covert actions.

There is a pressing need for this legislation. With the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the federal government now encompasses 19 distinct components that have intelligence responsibilities. Ensuring that these components—which range from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to the Department of Homeland Security to the Department of Treasury—are cooperating and performing their missions effectively is critical to our national security and winning the war on terrorism.

But it is not just federal coordination and cooperation which is at issue. There is also a pressing need for state and local law enforce-

ment officials to get the information they need to protect our constituents. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In a recent survey, the National Governor's Association noted that fully 70 percent of state homeland security directors are dissatisfied with the specificity of homeland security information they receive from federal sources, and the fully 55 percent who are disappointed with its actionable quality. Our state law enforcement officials need information to protect our constituents.

And we in Congress need information to conduct our oversight functions. The availability of information to appropriate congressional committees is a paramount concern for this nation's system of checks and balances. The ability of the GAO to conduct thorough and nonpartisan reviews is well known. But what is not well known is the hurdles they sometimes face in conducting oversight. Earlier this year, shortly after GAO released a report on federal government policies relating to the sharing of terrorism-related and sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information (GAO-06-385). Specifically, the DNI declined to comment on a draft version of the report because it considered GAO's work in this non-sensitive area a "review of intelligence activities" that was "beyond GAO's purview." But this bill makes it clear that the DNI cannot evade Congressional oversight by lumping the sharing of unclassified information and other non-sensitive matters together with the kinds of intelligence activities that understandably must be held to a stricter standard.

This bill makes it clear that Congress has a real and continuing interest in reviews of the basic functions of the intelligence community, such as sharing of information with state and local law enforcement officials and transportation security. The events of 911 made it clear that systemic weaknesses in these areas can cost lives.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this bill.

AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF LEBANON AND THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

SPEECH OF

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the amended version of H. Res. 1017, introduced by my colleague TOM LANTOS, which affirms support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people.

Mr. Speaker, what this resolution now does is urge the Government of Lebanon to request assistance from the international community for military and other forms of support in securing their border with Syria, in order to end the flow of weapons to Hezbollah.

I want to thank Chairman HYDE for his instrumental role in negotiating language that addresses these concerns and enables the Government of Lebanon to engage and work closely with the international community so as to prevent another crisis in the region.

This resolution recognizes the courageous efforts made by many Lebanese in their independent uprising on March 14, 2005 and commends the democratically elected Government of Lebanon for their ongoing efforts to restore